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INFO RUEHFT/AMCONSUL FRANKFURT 1342

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 000459

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR CA/ACS/OCS/AF,
FRANKFURT FOR RCO

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/16/2018
TAGS: [CASC](#) [ER](#) [KIDE](#) [PGOV](#)
SUBJECT: ERITREA EXPROPRIATES \$1.3 MILLION PROPERTY FROM
AMCIT

Classified By: Ambassador Ronald K. McMullen for Reason 1.4 (d)

¶1. (C) An American citizen of Eritrean origin informed Emboff that in September 2007 the Government of the State of Eritrea (GSE) expropriated 15 acres of land containing lumber trees and 2,000 coffee plants worth approximately \$1.3 million. The land is in the Filfil area, approximately 30 miles north of Asmara. The GSE did not take official or legal action against the Amcit; Eritrean soldiers appeared at the property and evicted his family and their employees. The Amcit said the soldiers claimed the land was to be used for tourism, although one year later soldiers remain encamped on the land and are not maintaining its productivity. The Amcit submitted his property title to both the Minister of Agriculture and the Office of the President, but did not receive resolution (Note: Lodging an informal complaint to high-ranking GSE officials is the only method for making a claim of government malpractice. If the official agrees with the claimant, the official will work through informal channels to attempt to reverse the GSE's action. There are no known official procedures for filing a claim against the government. End Note.)

¶2. (SBU) The claimant did not seek Embassy assistance with the matter. Post believes Embassy involvement may have a negative impact on the claimant's resolution attempts.
MCMULLEN